

Paul Cozens IEng CITP MBCS

I currently work for the Environment Agency, a public body responsible for protecting and improving the environment of England and Wales. The Environment Agency has 13,500 employees and an annual budget of more than £1.1bn a year.

With over 17 years experience with the organisation in flood risk management including roles in flood warning, flood defence operations and Capital projects improvements, I am now working as a Technical Specialist for a team of six. My responsibilities include providing expert advice to senior management on engineering and technical issues and developing and managing a programme in Asset Investment and Planning that contributes to the delivery of national and regional targets. In addition, I am responsible for mentoring junior staff to contribute appropriately to the team's objectives.

During my career with the Environment Agency I have project managed many projects, one of which was the pilot study for the review of flood defence maintenance operations in respect of the habitants' regulations. This project was necessary to confirm that we were meeting the requirements of the Habitats Regulations in the execution of flood defence activities. This entailed determining whether any relevant operation undertaken on the pilot sites was having an adverse effect upon the environment and additionally producing a good practice report to assist all regions in undertaking similar reviews. My role encompassed managing the programme and fulfilling the stakeholder's (Natural England) requirements.

My background prior to the Environment Agency was that of a Management Services Analyst. This is concerned with organisational analysis, information analysis, developing solutions, implementing change and communications.

With encouragement and support from my organisation, I gained registration with the Engineering Council as an Incorporated Engineer (IEng) in 2007. Although I was already professionally qualified as a Chartered IT professional (CITP), I had always considered myself an engineer, having worked in engineering roles for the majority of my career.

One of the many benefits of IEng registration has been the professional recognition of peers and management since I was awarded the qualification.



The Environment Agency has always urged staff to become professionally qualified and it is this area of development that appeals to me. I would encourage others to seek professional registration and am keen to become a mentor in my organisation to help others to do this. I am therefore currently working with the HR department to realise this ambition.

Paul Cozens IEng CITP MBCS
Registered 2007

'One of the many benefits of IEng registration has been the professional recognition of peers and management since I was awarded the qualification'